



WHAT'S NEW WITH STARS



We're back...

The newsletter that is... After several long months, we are bringing back the STARS for KIDS NOW newsletter. Currently we are going to only be offering it in electronic version, so be sure to let others know where you can find it! You can find this newsletter at... <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/starsforkidsnow.html> and at <http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/QEI/stars.asp>.

The STARS regulations have changed...

Don't panic! Many of the changes made to the regulations are very beneficial to you as a provider.

Here's a highlight of some of the changes...

- Annual Achievement Award for STARS Levels 3 and 4
- Incentive Award increase for STARS Levels 3 and 4
- Enhancement Award for STARS Level 4
- Introduction of the STARS Interim Report for STARS Levels 2-4

Be sure to review the STARS regulations as well as the **NEW STARS** Interpretive Guidelines for more detailed explanation. The regulations can be found at...<http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/KAR/TITLE922.HTM> and the Interpretive Guidelines can be found at...<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/starsforkidsnow.html>.

The STARS for KIDS NOW data system to be up and running soon...

The STARS for KIDS NOW program is having a data system built to better serve the STARS participants! It is very exciting! The current processes of application, rating and approval will become even more streamlined as a result. This will not have an impact on you, the provider, except to better serve you!

In having this built, there will be an official STARS for KIDS NOW website developed. This will allow parents to search for STARS rated programs within their area, as well as provide a greater explanation of the STARS program and the benefits a child receives from higher quality care and early education.

We will include many more details as the system progresses in upcoming newsletters.

We have been getting the word out...

Information about the STARS for KIDS NOW program including regulation updates was recently shared at the Annual Infant Toddler Institute in Lexington. This information was also shared with Community Action of Southern Kentucky during their annual in-service.

Parents were our target...

Many members of the STARS for KIDS NOW team were present at the State Fair in Louisville this year. We handed out many STARS for KIDS items including a flyer with a brief explanation of the program. Over the course of the three days, the STARS team were able to touch approximately 2,000 people. Knowledge creates demand! Thank you to all STARS participants. You are what drives the search for quality!



SPOTLIGHT A STAR PROFESSIONAL



Tammy West~ STARS Fiscal Coordinator

Tammy has been with the Division of Child Care since February 2007, and has been employed with state government for 14 years. She has worked for various agencies including the Transportation Cabinet, Department of Education, and Labor Cabinet to name a few. Her official job title with the Division of Child Care is Internal Policy Analyst II, but is deemed the STARS Fiscal Coordinator so customers can get a better idea of what her job entails.

Since Tammy has taken over the STARS award payments, she has completely revamped the payment system. Her goals have been to foresee questions providers may have about their award payments and provide the information beforehand and easily access payment information so she can assist a provider if they call with a payment question. The calculation and payment of initial achievement awards and quality incentive awards have kept Tammy busy each month. And now with the July 1, 2008, implementation of the annual achievement awards and annual enhancement awards, Tammy has been even busier. These awards are specific to Level 3 and Level 4 providers. Check the *What's New With STARS* section for the link to the updated regulations and for the specific qualifications on these awards.

Tammy enjoys working in the Division of Child Care and is glad to have a small part in making a difference in the lives of children. Tammy is married to Bobby, and they have two children, (pictured below) Kayla and Kacey. Kayla is 7 and in the second grade and Kacey is 4 and in preschool. Tammy also serves on the Family Resource Network with the American Diabetes Association because it is a cause close to her heart. Her daughter, Kayla, was diagnosed with diabetes when she was 2 years old. Tammy meets and speaks with newly diagnosed families to help with the transition to their new life with diabetes.



DID YOU KNOW?



- 27.4% of all child facilities in the state are STARS rated! This is above the national average for states that have a Quality Rating System.
- As of June 2008, there were a total of 2290 licensed facilities in the state of Kentucky. In July 2008 there were 713 Licensed STARS facilities across the state. This means that 31% of all licensed facilities are STARS rated.
- As of June 2008, there were a total of 779 certified family child care homes in the state of Kentucky. In July 2008 there were 129 Certified STARS facilities across the state. This means that 16.5% of all certified facilities are STARS rated.





HELPFUL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



- ★ For questions about certificates, scheduling a rating visit or incentive payments, please call the Division of Child Care at (502) 564-2524, or e-mail us at STARS@ky.gov. (Please be aware that this is neither a secure e-mail address nor an outgoing email account. A response will be sent from a cabinet employee or a designee. Also, please do not send information such as personal identifying information (PII) or protected health information (PHI) via this e-mail. Thank you!)
- ★ To request technical assistance, please contact your STARS Quality Coordinator at (800) 956-8950.
- ★ The Division of Child Care's Web site is: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/>
- ★ The Kentucky Partnership for Early childhood Services' Web site is: <http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/>

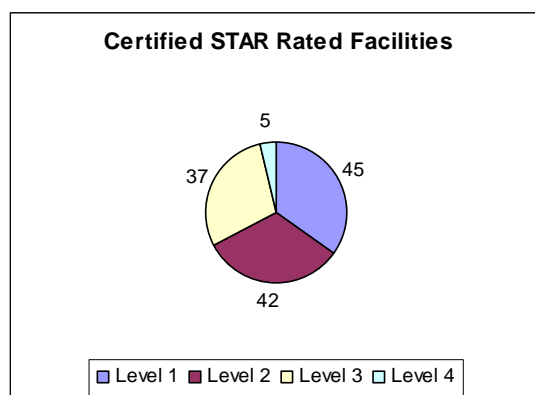
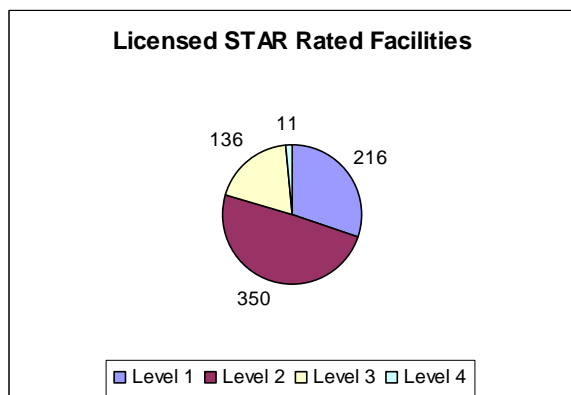
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Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Community Based Services
Division of Child Care
275 East Main St., 3C-F
Frankfort, KY 40621



STAR RATED FACILITIES



The numbers of STAR-rated facilities represent a point in time of unduplicated facilities on July 31, 2008.